Declaration of new waterways

1240. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to declare three new national waterways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many more kms. would be added to existing national waterways with the declaration of the new waterway;

(d) whether Government have set any target for increasing inland water transport; and

(e) if so, what is this target and what measures are being adopted to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of proposed new declaration are as under:—

(i) Kakinada-Pondicherry Canal along with rivers Godavari and Krishna (1095 km).

(ii) East Cost Canal along with river Brahmani and Mahanadi Delta (623 km)

(iii) River Barak (140 km).

(c) 1858 km.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Government has planned to encourage gradual shift of domestic cargo from rail and road mods to Inland water transport, increasing its share from the present level of less than 1% to at least 2% over next 8-10 years by adopting the following measures:

(i) Development of infrastructure facilities on the existing waterways to make them fully operational;

(ii) To put in place a package for modal shifts from rail and road to IWT mode *via* specific modal shift programme and specific incentives;

(iii) To encourage States to promote inland water transport through Centrally Sponsored Scheme;

(iv) Public-private partnership for project development/implementation of IWT projects; and

(v) increasing the number of vessels through vessel leasing and vessel building subsidy scheme.

CRF Allocated to States

1241. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Central Road Funds allocated to States and utilised by them since 2000-01;

(b) the reasons for under utilisation of this fund;

(c) the length of National Highways and rural roads repaired and constructed by each State during the above period; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIAPPA): (a) The amount of Central Road Funds (CRF) allotted to States for development of State/ rural roads and the amount utilized by them since 2000-01 up to 2005-06 (30-6-2005) is as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Roads	Allocation (1-4-2000 - 31-3-2006)	Utilization (1-4-2000 - 30-6-2005)
State Roads	6241.15	3246.13
Rural Roads (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana)	12240.88	10333.56

(b) The release of funds from CRF for State roads depends on the utilization of the released amount and the progress of works approved on the basis of the proposals submitted by the respective State Governments and implemented by them. The main reasons for less utilization of fund under PMGSY are attributable to inadequate managerial, technical and contractor capacity in the States.

(c) This funds from CRF earmarked for development of National Highways is allocated to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)